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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 ARA-16 SSO-00 AMAD-01 CA-01 /024 W
----------331041 141620Z /38

O 141613Z JUL 82
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1644
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: JOHN R. SULLIVAN

FOR AMBASSADOR ASENCIO/J. WARD CA/OCS/EMR FROM R.LANE

1. YESTERDAY, JULY 13, AT APPROXIMATELY 3:40 P. M., DALTON (GARCIA) CALLED THE EMBASSY. FIRST HE SPOKE WITH BILL MOODY OF THE VISA SECTION WHO CONVINCED HIM THAT HE SHOULD SPEAK WITH ME SINCE I WAS FROM WASHINGTON AND INTERESTED IN SPEAKING WITH EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM. (IT APPEARS THAT DALTON HAS BECOME DE FACTO THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE TWO).

2. AT 3:55 DALTON CALLED AGAIN AND THIS TIME ASKED TO SPEAK WITH ME. HE WAS SUSPICIOUS, EVEN ANTAGONISTIC INITIALLY, AND BEGAN BY INFORMING ME THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HE OR MORALES RETURN TO THE EMBASSY UNLESS IT WAS TO RECEIVE THEIR VISAS. HE AND MORALES WERE RESENTFUL OF THE "DESPECTIVE" TREATMENT THEY HAD RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR PREVIOUS VISITS TO THE EMBASSY AND WERE HIGHLY RESOLVED NOT TO RETURN TO THE EMBASSY UNLESS THEY WERE PROMISED BEFOREHAND THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE VISAS.

3. I EXPLAINED TO DALTON THE NECESSITY FOR ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE BEFORE A FINAL DECISION COULD BE MADE ABOUT THE VISAS; THAT WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSIDERING THEIR APPLICATIONS AND THAT NO DOORS HAD BEEN CLOSED. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD MADE CERTAIN STATEMENTS AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH THEM AND THAT I WOULD HOPE THAT THEY WOULD NOT FORECLOSE DISCUSSION ON THESE STATEMENTS UNTIL WE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW. I TOLD THEM THAT IF THE DIALOGUE PROVED FRUITFUL, THEN ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE.

4. AT THIS POINT, DALTON INQUIRED AS TO HOW LONG I HAD BEEN AWAY FROM EL SALVADOR. I RESPONDED THAT I HAD NEVER BEEN IN EL SALVADOR; THAT I WAS FROM WASHINGTON. HE THEN ALLUDED TO MY LAST NAME AND NOTED THAT HE HAD ASSUMED THAT I WAS HOWARD LANE, THE PRESS OFFICER AT OUR EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR. THAT BIT OF CONFUSION CLEARED UP, WE THEN CONTINUED OUR EXCHANGE. (I HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION HERE THAT THE CONFUSION IN NAMES MAY HAVE HEIGHTENED DALTON'S SUSPICIONS; HENCE, HIS APPARENT INITIAL HOSTILITY).

5. DALTON WANTED TO KNOW IF I WAS CONDITIONING THE POSSIBILITY OF VISAS FOR HIM AND HIS COMRADE ON THEIR PROVIDING US WITH INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER IMPORTANT. I TOLD HIM THAT ESSENTIALLY THAT WAS THE CORRECT INFERENCE TO DRAW; THAT IF HIS INFORMATION PROVED TO BE ACCURATE THAT ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE. BUT I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT IN ORDER FOR US TO EXPLORE FULLY SUCH POSSIBILITIES IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE THEY LEFT MEXICO. AT THIS POINT THERE WAS A PAUSE DURING WHICH DALTON AND MORALES CONFERRED. LATER, DALTON REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ONLY AFTER THEY ARE IN THE U. S. AND THAT THEY WOULD "CONSIDER" TALKING TO ME AGAIN. I TOLD THEM THAT I HAD BEEN HERE SINCE FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK AND THAT I PLANNED TO DEPART MEXICO AT NOON ON THURSDAY, SO I HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHAT I HAD SAID TO THEM. HE ANSWERED THAT THEY WOULD.

COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY DALTON AND MORALES ARE PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN MEXICO AND PROBABLY HAVE BEEN SINCE I ARRIVED HERE. I THINK THAT THEY ARE PERHAPS INTRIGUED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF YET GETTING TO THE U. S. AND THUS, MAY BE PREPARED TO BE LESS ANTAGONISTIC TOWARD US. STILL, THEY HAVE NO INCENTIVE FOR TELLING US MORE ABOUT THE SULLIVAN CASE, ASSUMING THEY POSSESS ANY SOLID INFORMATION, UNLESS THEY ARE CERTAIN OF OBTAINING VISAS. ASSUMING THAT THEY CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO TALK ABOUT SULLIVAN HERE, THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED AT SOME POINT WHETHER GIVING THEM THE VISAS IS POTENTIALLY MORE DAMAGING THAN THE POSSIBLE FALLOUT FROM NOT GIVING THEM. GAVIN

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